



TORRENS VALLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE INC.

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Allergy Aware Policy

At Torrens Valley Children's Centre, we aim to be an *Allergy Aware Environment* who work with children and families to create a safe learning environment for all children, inclusive of those with allergies. The policy aims to ensure that staff, families and children become more allergy aware through becoming familiar with common serious allergens and gaining an understanding of the procedures required to support children with allergies.

Some children are at risk of an anaphylactic reaction if exposed to certain allergens and therefore need to have appropriate measures in place prior to attending the centre. As a number of children with nut allergies have and continue to attend our centre, the Governing Council/Management Committee have deemed our centre to be NUT AWARE. We ask that products containing any type of nuts are not brought into the centre at any time.

Common allergens include:

- Foods (peanuts and tree nuts, shellfish and fish, milk, eggs, some fruits)
- Insect bites/stings (Bees, wasps, jumper/hopper ants)
- Medications (antibiotics, aspirin)
- Latex (rubber gloves, balloons)

Common reactions include swollen eyes, hives, wheezing and asthma symptoms. Some reactions are life threatening.

What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and can result in death. An anaphylactic reaction (full body shock) can occur within seconds of exposure to an allergen or it may occur as a delayed reaction several hours after initial exposure. Anaphylaxis is a critical medical emergency that requires immediate treatment with adrenalin by injection to prevent injury or loss of life. (Adrenalin opens up airways and blood vessels in the body)

Allergy Aware Procedures and Practices:

The centre must be informed by families of all allergies, if any, upon enrolment and if at any time after, when allergies are identified. Centre staff, in consultation with families, will conduct a risk assessment and develop a health support plan (if required). Additional training for staff may be identified at this time. All contact staff will complete mandated approved training in Asthma & Anaphylaxis management. As per national Law, there will always be at least one educator on site at all times with the approved training.

Parents/caregivers of children with severe allergies will be required to provide a Health management/Support plan for the child, prior to beginning attendance, from the child's treating medical professional.

Parents/caregivers will be required to provide any medication (with current expiry date), including auto injector/epipen to the centre each time your child attends. It may be left at the centre.

The centre now has a generic epipen for use in emergency situations. It does not replace the need for children with identified anaphylaxis to supply their own.

All staff, including relief staff, and volunteers will be informed of the needs of children with Health Support Plans.

Parents/caregivers with severe allergies ie; latex are asked to share this information with us so that we can ensure every effort is made to keep you safe too.

Parents/caregivers of other children will be notified when a child has an allergy with potential for anaphylaxis attend the centre, via a note on the entrance door. Information regarding foods or other items (ie; collage/junk materials) to be avoided/excluded at the centre will be communicated to families, in accordance with the child's Health Support Plan.

This policy will be provided to all new families on enrolment and communicated to families from time to time as the need arises, through newsletters etc. When children bring products that contain excluded allergens (ie; nuts) staff will place the food in the kitchen to take home with them. A verbal explanation of why the food was not consumed will be provided to the family on collection. An alternative food will be supplied by the centre, where possible, if required.

Curriculum:

Children identified as being susceptible to anaphylaxis will not be supplied food by the centre unless arranged and agreed to with the family. Discussions with families of children with allergies will occur as part of planning for centre experiences such as cooking or excursions.

Educators will incorporate education about food allergies into the programme so that all children have an opportunity to become more allergy aware.

Children will not swap or share food that has been brought from home. Families will be consulted around shared food events. Children are required to sit in designated areas when eating and the areas are to be cleaned by staff after mealtimes. Any food supplied to the centre for special occasions (ie; birthdays) **MUST** come with a list of ingredients - **NO FOODS** will be given to any children without this. Parents of children with food allergies will be encouraged to supply a safe alternative that can be given to their child in the event of food brought in for special occasions.

Staff will monitor learning areas such as collage/making where exposure to allergens may occur e.g.; egg/milk carton, nut food packaging etc. Where a specific allergen is identified, families will be requested to not bring particular items to the centre.

Policy Review date: September 2018

Next Review date: September 2021

